

RESOURCES

Curriculum Resources

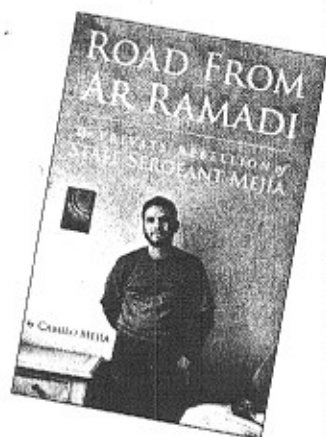
*Road from Ar Ramadi

By Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejía
(The New Press, 2007)
312 pp. \$24.95 Hardback
Road from Ar Ramadi is subtitled "The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía." The book chronicles Mejía's journey from child of Sandinista revolutionaries in Nicaragua to Iraq War conscientious objector. It's an extraordinary memoir that is both intimate and accessible for high school students. Mejía spent five months fighting in Iraq; afterwards, his refusal to obey an order to return led to nine months in prison. As recruiters ramp up their efforts to entice our students to join the military, *Road from Ar Ramadi* is an especially valuable resource to demystify military life and the Iraq war. The Iraq Veterans Against the War (www.ivaw.org) recently chose Mejía to chair its board of directors.

Policy Matters

*Building Powerful Community Organizations: A Personal Guide to Creating Groups that Can Solve Problems and Change the World

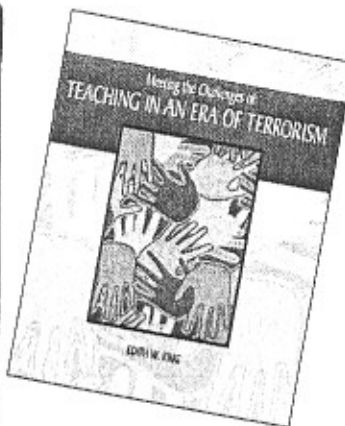
By Michael Jacoby Brown
(Long Haul Press, 2007)
434 pp. \$19.95
Through stories, sample leaflets, case studies, and solid advice, this amazing handbook provides a valuable array of organizing techniques and strategies. Very useful for anyone who wants to learn how to organize—high school students and parents in schools, teachers in unions and communities—or for more experienced organizers who wish to hone their skills and reflect on how to become



better organizers. A crisp layout allows for the reader to easily find what's most useful, including valuable sample leaflets and valuable checklists.

Inequality Matters: The Growing Economic Divide in America and Its Poisonous Consequences

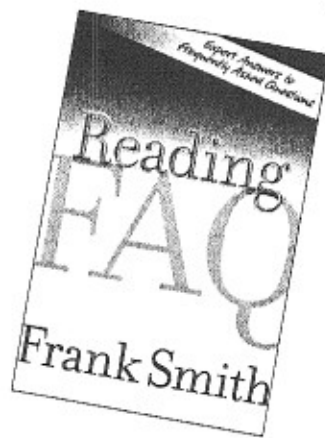
Edited by James Lardner and David Smith
(New Press, 2007)
328 pp. \$16.95
Twenty-three essays by a range of experts examine issues of jobs, health care, education, taxes, and pensions through the lens of growing class inequality. An excellent source book for people looking for current data on inequality, although the book is compromised by a lack of index.



Meeting the Challenges of Teaching in an Era of Terrorism

By Edith W. King
(Thomson, 2006)
197 pp. \$28

King, a professor in Curriculum and Instruction at University of Denver, draws educators' attention away from facile us-versus-them stereotypes and back to the central issue of global inequality in this handbook. Chapters focus on topics ranging from a feminist view of teaching in an era of terrorism, to homophobia and bullying, to the impact of violence and inequality on the world's children.



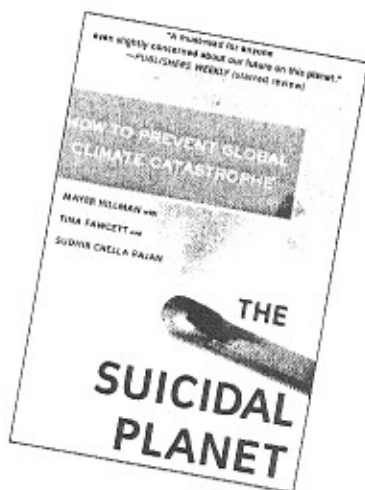
Reading FAQ
By Frank Smith
(Teachers College Press, 2007)
68 pp. \$13.95

In a delightful question and answer format, educator Frank Smith concisely explains why the simple yet profound statement "reading teaches us to read" should guide reading instruction. Topics addressed include reading strategies, phonics, silent reading and the power of story. A useful guide and reference book for new and veteran teachers alike.

Reclaiming Assessment: A Better Alternative to the Accountability Agenda

By Chris Gallagher
(Heinemann, 2007)
144 pp. \$18.50
An important antidote to the "one size fits all" obsession with standardized tests that has tightened its grip on classrooms since passage of NCLB. Gal-

lagher, a professor and genuine friend of public school teachers, describes Nebraska's "school improvement program" that allows for considerable local initiative and has engendered teacher collaboration and leadership in developing assessment systems that focus on evaluating classroom activities. Gallagher writes of "the hope that teachers can reclaim assessment from its hijackers and refashion it as a tool of engagement." People searching for alternative systems of assessment will find *Reclaiming Assessment* an invaluable guide.



The Suicidal Planet: How to Prevent Global Climate Catastrophe

By Mayer Hillman, Tina Fawcett, and Sudhir Chella Rajan.
(St. Martin's Press, 2007)
296 pp. \$23.95 Hardback
An understandable and well-organized collection of essays that examine the problem, current strategies, and solutions to the most daunting environmental crisis facing the planet. The British slant to some articles offers a refreshing look at issues such as how urban spaces in the United States have been "automobilized." An excellent resource for teachers who want a single reference for the wide range of issues involved in this complicated topic.